

Message Text

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6/14/73 20410

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EGEN, EAGR

SUBJECT: LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF SELECTED FOODSTUFFS

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE SUBMITTED SEEKING AUTHORITY TO LIMIT EXPORTS OF FOOD ITEMS WHICH ARE IN SHORT DOMESTIC SUPPLY. OUTSTANDING EXPORT ORDERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED BY JUNE 20.

2. THIS ACTION IS PART OF THE PRESIDENT' S ANTI- INFLATION PROGRAM.

3. YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING THIS MATTER BUT SHOULD YOU RECEIVE QUESTIONS THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE MADE:

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-- THE U. S. WILL SHORTLY BE CONSULTING WITH THOSE COUNTRIES THAT PURCHASE SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF THE COMMODITIES AFFECTED AND WITH OTHER MAJOR EXPORTERS- (FYI, INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS AVAILABLE TO SUPPLEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON).

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPLEMENT MONITORING OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS BY JUNE 20. RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS WOULD REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF LEGISLATION AND ENACTMENT BY CONGRESS. PROPOSAL WILL BE TO GIVE THE

PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE EXPORT CONTROLS TEMPORARILY WHENEVER HE DETERMINES SUCH ACTION IS NECESSARY TO STABILIZE DOMESTIC PRICE LEVELS. THE PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO ALLOCATE EXPORTS TO PREVENT ANY UNDUE DISTORTION OF WORLD TRADE.

-- SHORTAGES OF SOME FOOD ITEMS ARE WORLDWIDE PROBLEM AND WE SHALL BE SEEKING COOPERATIVE MEANS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM WITH FAIR SHARING OF THE BURDEN.

-- WE EXPECT THAT ANY CONTROLS WILL BE TEMPORARY; U. S. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR CONTINUES TO BE STRONG AND PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE SUFFICIENT IN FUTURE YEARS TO MEET ALL DEMAND; WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING OUR MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, INCLUDING GRAINS AND SOYBEANS, OVER THE COMING YEARS.

-- THESE REQUESTS FOR AUTHORITY ARE DOMESTIC IN THEIR ORIENTATION. WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A SERIES OF STEPS TO INCREASE FUTURE PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO ENABLE US TO SATISFY BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DEMAND FOR THESE PRODUCTS.

-- THE PRESENT SHORTAGE IS LARGELY DUE TO SIMULTANEOUS POOR HARVESTS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SITUATION CAN BECOME WORSE IF EITHER COUNTRIES OR FIRMS ENGAGE IN SPECULATION OR STOCK BUILDING; MEANS OF COUNTERING SPECULATION WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF FURTHER CONSULTATION.

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3. ONE OF THE INPUTS INTO U. S. DECISIONS DURING THE NEXT WEEKS WILL BE THE BEST POSSIBLE READING OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EITHER COMMERCIAL OR CONCESSIONAL U. S. EXPORTS OF GRAINS AND SOYBEANS. INFORMATION SHOULD BE REPORTED BY CABLE AS IT IS DEVELOPED. PORTER

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